Olive School

Wednesday, 17 June, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers, Assalamu Alaykum (May peace be upon you)

I pray that you and your family are well and would like to thank you for all your support during this very difficult and uncertain time.

Further to the guidance issued by the Department for Education, we are hoping to reopen school for two days for all Year 5 children on the following dates:

- **Thursday, 02 July, 2020**
- **Thursday, 09 July, 2020**

The children will have the opportunity to meet with their class teachers and other pupils in their year group prior to finishing for the Summer break.

Arrival and departure arrangements

We are putting arrangements in place to keep children and staff safe. There are a number of changes to how we will organise your child's day.

Year 5 children should arrive at school between 8:10-8:20am and enter the school via the back playground and the Year 2 tunnel door.

The Government's advice is to avoid using public transport where possible. If your child travels to school by bus, the following information may be helpful.

- Children using the bus service MUST wear face masks and sit individually (1 child per row).
- Please provide your child with a washable face mask and wash daily.
- The bus company have an enhanced cleaning procedure in place to limit the spread of any germs, however, we highly recommend sanitising hands before and after travelling on the bus.

Please kindly note the following:

- If you drive your child to school, please park on the school car park. Car sharing between members of different families is not advised.
- Please do not enter the school and remain seated in your vehicles until it is time to collect your child.
- Please avoid forming groups outside school and to ensure government guidelines are adhered to, it is imperative that social distancing is maintained around the school grounds.
- Please ensure you follow the one-way route through school which will be marked for ease of reference.

- Once you have collected your child, we request that you leave school premises.
- If you need to inform the office of any issues, please do this via telephone or email where possible to limit unnecessary contact.
- If you have a child in Reception and Year 1, please bring both children in at 8:00am and enter school via the main office.
- Children must not bring any toys or equipment into school from home.
- Children will leave school at the following times, from the following exit points:
- Year 1 children will leave school at 2:10pm from their classroom.

Lesson arrangements

We will organise children into groups of 15 or less. Each group or 'bubble' will have its own classroom to work in and will always have the same teacher or learning coach. **This arrangement is in line with Government guidance and means that children can be kept safe and well supervised.**

We will focus on children's wellbeing as well as work on basic skills such as reading, writing and numeracy. We want children to feel comfortable and enjoy being back in school. We are very aware that they have been away for a long time and that the experience of coming back will be quite strange. We have thought carefully about the curriculum and will be avoiding activities that bring children into very close contact with each other. Children will use individual resources rather than sharing materials with their friends. If any resources are going to be used by more than one child during the day, then they will be carefully disinfected before being used by a different child.

Break time

Children will spend break time with other children from their bubble. They will spend time outside in the fresh air whenever possible under supervision.

Lunch arrangements

Children will eat their lunch with other members of their bubble whilst seated in the canteen. Children will be served with their meals by staff to allow for an efficient lunch service. Universal Infant Free School Meals will continue for your child whilst in school, however, your child may bring a packed lunch to school if they prefer.

Hygiene and safety

We take the safety of all our children and staff very seriously. All children will be required to wash their hands as soon as they enter school, every time they use the toilet, before and after they eat lunch, and when they leave school. They will also wash their hands following some lesson activities and, in the event, that they cough or sneeze. Please help us to keep everyone safe by ensuring that your child knows how to wash their hands, using soap and water, for 20 seconds.

We will ensure that materials used by children are disinfected after each individual child uses them. Our cleaning staff will wipe down surfaces in the classroom, including tables and chairs, regularly during the day. We will ensure that toilets, washbasins and taps are thoroughly cleaned after each use.

Children will be given stationery and resources for their individual use when they are in lessons. These items will be bagged and stored separately from other children's resources.

Our school has completed a thorough health and safety risk assessment. This has been reviewed and approved by the Trust, along with our broader risk assessment and reopening plan.

Expectations of pupils' behaviour

We have high expectations of children's behaviour when they return to school. It will be very helpful if you can talk gently to your child about these before they return. Our rules continue to be based on the STAR values and we will explain them to children in a way that they can understand. We expect children to be kind and fair and to do as adults ask them, straightaway. This includes washing their hands regularly and not standing or sitting too close to their friends. We are asking children not to touch each other – this includes hugging and holding hands.

Uniform

Children should wear their uniform to school, or other comfortable clothing, such as plain dark trousers and white T-shirts that can be washed easily. Children must wear clean, washed clothes to school every day.

Children who are unwell

Any child who is unwell should remain at home. If a child develops symptoms of COVID-19 in school (a new persistent dry cough, high temperature, change or loss of smell or taste) they will be taken to a medical room and you will be asked to collect them from school as soon as possible.

Children or staff who are tested positive for COVID-19

If a pupil or a staff member is tested for COVID-19, then the whole bubble of which they are a part will be asked to stay away from school and self-isolate for 14 days. In this way, the possibility of disease transmission throughout the school will be reduced.

Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable

If your child, or anyone in your household, is clinically extremely vulnerable, and therefore at high risk of becoming severely ill if they are infected by COVID-19, they will have received a letter from the NHS advising them to shield. In these circumstances, your child should not attend school. (Your child should not attend if anyone else in your house is clinically extremely vulnerable, even if your child does not have a severe medical condition themselves.)

If your child is clinically vulnerable, you should take advice from a medical practitioner before sending them to school.

We understand that you may be feeling anxious about sending your child back to school. Please be assured that we will look after them and we very much want to welcome your child back. Many things may have changed during the lockdown period but our commitment to working with you in the best interests of your child remains firm. We will, however, respect your decision and no action will be taken against you if you decide that you do not wish your child to return to school yet.

Please update us

If you are a key worker and require a place for your child (in any year group) to enable you to return to work, please email the school on info@oliveblackburn.staracademies.org so that arrangements can be made, if you have not already done so.

We also need to hear from you if your child is clinically extremely vulnerable or clinically vulnerable, or if a member of your household is clinically extremely vulnerable. Please email the school on info@oliveblackburn.staracademies.org

Thank you once again for all the support that you give to your child, and for working with us. I am very proud of the way in which our Star community has pulled together to look after each other during the pandemic. As you know, Star Academies is running a campaign to support families who may be struggling to afford essential food and hygiene products during this period. If you need help, please let us know.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Riaz

Principal